

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of

Advanced Television Systems
and Their Impact Upon the
Existing Television Broadcast
Service

MM Docket No. 87-268

TO: The Commission

TRIBUNE BROADCASTING'S
STATUS REPORT ON DTV CONSTRUCTION IN LOS ANGELES

Tribune Broadcasting Company ("Tribune"), corporate parent of KTLA Inc., licensee of KTLA(TV), Los Angeles, California, hereby files this report on its progress toward satisfying its voluntary commitment to build a DTV facility for KTLA by November 1998. Tribune (through KTLA Inc.) has long been committed to providing DTV service expeditiously to the Los Angeles market, having filed an application with the Commission to construct a DTV experimental station in August 1996. See FCC File No. BPEXT-960829XE.

Tribune also remains committed to completing construction of a DTV facility for KTLA in Los Angeles by November 1998. On April 7, 1998, Tribune (through KTLA Inc.) filed an application for a DTV construction permit on channel 31

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(FCC File No. BPCDT-980407KE), the channel assigned to KTLA by the Commission in the Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration of the Sixth Report & Order ("6th R&O Reconsideration Order"), FCC 98-24, released February 23, 1998. Before placing a final order for a transmitter and antenna for the KTLA-DTV facility on channel 31, Tribune is waiting until its DTV construction permit application is coordinated with Mexico and approved by the Commission. The Sixth R&O Reconsideration Order acknowledged that the international coordination process was underway but not yet finalized: "We are also negotiating and coordinating the implementation of our DTV allotments with the Canadian and Mexican administrations. . . . While we seek to complete this process as quickly as possible, these are complex matters that require careful study and planning by both sides of the negotiations." Id. ¶ 141. Because DTV antennas and transmission equipment are channel dependent, Tribune is unable to commit the estimated \$900,000 to purchase a DTV 31 antenna and appropriate transmitter until coordination with Mexico has been completed.

Tribune has also taken a number of other steps toward completing construction of a DTV facility for KTLA by November 1998, including:

- notifying KTLA's transmitter site landlord of its intention to install a DTV antenna;

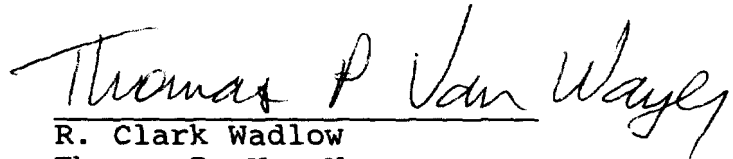
- installing a microwave link (STL) to KTLA's transmitter capable of handling a DS3 digital interface that will contain a multiplex of the existing NTSC service and the ATSC encoded stream;
- signing a corporate group agreement with Dielectric to purchase, inter alia, a DTV antenna for KTLA;
- signing a corporate group agreement with Comark to, inter alia, purchase a DTV transmitter for KTLA;
- continuing the conversion of KTLA's studio from NTSC facilities to 601 digital component facilities capable of producing locally originated DTV programming as well as developing a high definition switching/integration level at a 1.2 GBPS data rate.

Tribune has also requested additional electric power capacity at KTLA's transmitter site from Southern California Edison Company. As of this date of this report, Tribune has received no firm commitment date from Southern California Edison to provide the additional power feed necessary to accommodate the KTLA DTV facility.

Until the coordination process with Mexico is completed, Tribune will be unable to finalize its pending, tentative agreements to purchase a new DTV transmitter or antenna for KTLA. In the current market, the time between order date and delivery for a side-mounted DTV antenna is estimated to range from 120 to 150 days. Tribune accordingly urges the Commission

to expedite the coordination process to the extent possible and act on KTLA's pending DTV construction permit application quickly so that Tribune can fulfill its voluntary commitment to become one of the few stations in Los Angeles to provide DTV service by November 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Van Wazer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed names of the signatories.

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